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P.O. Box 3448
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102
1-877-846-7710

EX PARTE

VIA ECFS AND EMAIL

February 26, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42; *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197; *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, February 25, 2016, Javier Rúa Jovet, Esq., Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico, Ileana Fas, advisor to Chairman Rúa, and the undersigned met with Matthew DelNero, Trent Harkrader, Ryan Palmer, Jay Schwarz, Garnet Hanly, and Christian Hoefly, all of the Wireline Competition Bureau, to discuss the Commission's Lifeline modernization initiative.

At the meeting, consistent with the Board's prior filings in this proceeding, we reiterated the Board's support for the Commission's proposals to modernize the Lifeline program. We stressed that **the Commission's effort to modernize Lifeline will not succeed if it does not succeed in Puerto Rico**. Broadband adoption in Puerto Rico is far lower than any state, and there are more Lifeline voice enrollees in Puerto Rico than there are in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and all other territories. As a result, for the Commission to make national decisions, it is important for the Commission to have a **complete** record on the potential size and impact that Lifeline support for broadband could have in Puerto Rico.

We reiterated the Board's position set out in earlier filings that the Commission should not unwittingly create any "qualification gaps." Limiting access to the Lifeline program to enrollees of certain federal assistance programs (like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the National School Lunch Program) that are not available to Puerto Rico residents would have a devastating impact in Puerto Rico.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed electronically in the above-captioned dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

S/Thomas M. Koutsky

Thomas M. Koutsky
Chief Policy Counsel
(202) 674-8409
tkoutsky@connectednation.org

cc:
Matthew DelNero, WCB
Trent Harkrader, WCB
Ryan Palmer, WCB
Jay Schwarz, WCB
Garnet Hanly, WCB
Christian Hoefly, WCB